People suffering from Goitre

1401. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report in the Times of India of 9th June, 1986 has stated that a recent UNICEF survey has revealed that about 5 crore people in the country and one crore out of them in Bihar alone are suffering from Goitre caused by deficiency of Iodine; and

(b) if so, what was the estimated number of people suffering from Goitre at the beginning and end of the 6th Plan period and also the outcome of the steps taken in that period in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The UNICEF has not conducted any survey on Goitre in India. However, UNICEF had assisted the Nutrition Foundation of India, which had studied the goitre prevalence in the country, to reprint its report.

(b) According to a very rough estimate, the number of people suffering from Goitre in Bihar at the end of the Sixth Plan period was around 88 lakhs. Corresponding and reliable estimates for the beginning of the Sixth Plan period are not available.

Iodised salt is being supplied to East and West Champaran districts from 1964. The Government of Bihar have notified 19 more districts with effect from 1st April, 1986 where sale of salt other than iodised salt is prohibited. Three private salt manufacturers have been permitted to manufacture iodised salt in Bihar to meet the requirements of the goitre-endemic areas in the State. Government have also taken a policy decision to iodise the entire edible salt in the country by 1992 in phases.

Fluorisis in the country

1402. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise names of the specific areas prone to fluorosis;

(b) the number of villages covered in each of the above States for providing safe drinking water; and

(c) the outcome of the steps taken by Government till date in so far as the fluorosis affected persons are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Certain pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi are prone to fluorosis. The areas which have been surveyed within the States are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(b) In Gujarat, the Nalgonda technique for defluoridation of water is being tried in Bhesan, Veghania, Bariya and Pipalwa villages of Amreli district by the Gujarat water supply and sewage Board.

In Andhra Pradesh, 171 villages have been provided with potable water in the affected districts. In Kadiri Municipality, a defluoridation plant has been constructed using Nalgonda technique. Besides the Government is motivating the people to adopt the process of removal of fluoride in their homes.

(c) Fluorosis is a condition which cannot be reversed. The Government is making all efforts to prevent the occurrence of fluorosis by providing alternate sources of potable drinking water and using the defluoridation techniques.

Statement

Areas in States and U. Ts which are prone to Fluorosis

Andhra Pradesh	Nalgonda and Prakanam districts.
Delhi	Bindapur Village and other villages.
Gujarat	Liliye and Lethi taluks in Amorli districts.
Haryana	Dayalpur Atali, Chhanes, Machgar Sotai villages.
Karnataka	Mundargi Kirapur, Kelakori and Mustikoppa villages of Dharwar district,
Punjab	Bhatinda, Sangrur and Ferozepur districts.
Rajasthan	In 6681 of 24037 villages, the flueries content of the water is high.
Tamil Nadu	Salem, Tanjore, South Arcot and Kanyakumari districts.
Uttar Pradesh	Khanjarpur, Usorn, Sikn, Madheya Khan and Kapurva villages.

Protection of Taj Mahal against stone "Cancer"

1403. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Taj Mahal has been affected by stone "Cancer" which has resulted in discolouring, flaking, blackening of its marble/stones for quite some time now; and

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government have so far taken to protect the monument and what funds have been allocated for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TAHI): (a) Taj Mahal is not affected by stone cancer. However, discolouring, flaking and blackening of the marble have been observed.

(b) The Archaeological Survey of India has set up sensitive instruments in the field laboratory in Taj Mahal to monitor continuously the concentration of pollutants in the ambient air apart from other steps taken by Government to protect the monument like:

(i) closing down the two thermal plants in the vicinity of Taj

(ii) Dieselisation of locomotives in the Railway marshalling yards at Agra

(iii) developing a green belt between Mathura and Agra

(iv) constitution of an Expert Committee in June 1984 to monitor all aspects of preservation and to recommend measures to keep Taj in a good state of preservation

(v) regular maintenance and periodical structural repairs and chemical preservation.

During the current financial year an amount of Rs. 11.05 lakhs has been allocated for this purpose.

Committee to study conditions of female prisoners

1404. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a